

**AMENITIES MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 19.00 VIA WEBEX MEETINGS**

Attendees.

Cllr R Carnell

Cllr D Palethorpe (Chairman)

Cllr R Farrow (Host)

Cllr J Ranjit

Cllr M Hutchings

Cllr A Armitage

The meeting opened at 7pm

1. The Chairman will open the meeting and receive apologies: **All invitees in attendance**.
2. To declare interests arising at this meeting and to consider any dispensation requests relating to this meeting. **None**
3. The Council will adjourn for the following items: **Public Question Time**: A period of 10 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Ipplepen**:**

**No members of the public present on this occasion.**

 4. The Council will convene to conduct the following business:

4a) Skatepark – Update

Cllr Palethorpe outlined some exploratory meetings that have been held since the last Amenities Committee, that have begun to identify some potential options for repairing and/or replacing the skatepark.

Cllr Palethorpe reported that he had met on site with Mr Russ Holbert from Maverick Skateparks and with Skate England.

The meetings provided useful information on the processes to be followed, should we decide to install a smooth spray concrete skatepark (wheeled park), that would be accessible to all and be fit for purpose for 40 years, with minimum maintenance requirements. It was also recommended that ideally, we do not remove the existing skatepark until funding is in place to replace it.

Mr Holbert will be sending us a report on his findings with recommendations and options which Cllr Palethorpe will share with the group.

Cllr Palethorpe met with Mr Chas Hampson (recommended by Skate England) who is a specialist in metal skatepark construction and repairs.

Mr Hampson works closely with ROSPA who have specialist skatepark inspectors.

The suggestion is that it may be possible for the skatepark life to be extended for a period of time.

Cllr Palethorpe will report back to the group and Parish Council on what advice and options are available and organise for us to have follow up meeting(s) which will also include consultation and feedback from the skatepark community project members.

4b) Tree planting – w/c 22nd February 2021

Devon Wildlife Trust will deliver a ‘signature’ tree on 22nd February along with 95 whips (slender, unbranched plants). The signature tree needs to be planted out soonest. **Action** - **Cllrs Palethorpe and Hutchings will undertake this.**

The whips can be planted out over time and the group needs to decide the best village locations for them.

Cllr Hutchings reported that a tree for the Toddlers’ Area has been reserved with the supplier.

4c) Ipplepen Bench checks and maintenance

Cllr Palethorpe proposed that councillors volunteer to assist with light maintenance of benches around the recreation ground (mainly sanding and application of paint/wood preservative). **Proposal accepted.**

Some repositioning of new and existing benches needs to be completed (eg bench required in Beech Hill). **Action – Cllr Palethorpe and Cllr Ranjit to arrange this.**

4d) Recreation Ground Update.

It was decided at the Parish Council meeting on 2nd February, to award Outdoor Play with the work to repair and replace high priority (risk) Activity Trail equipment in the Senior playground and to dismantle the Pagoda in the Junior area. **Cllr Armitage** reported that Outdoor Play have scheduled this work to take place over the 26th and 27th February (OP have had to order some items for the repairs, so the scheduled dates are subject to these orders being delivered to them). Cllr Armitage will inform the group of any changes to these dates.

Cllr Carnell suggested that strimmer guards ought to be attached to the wooden support posts on the new equipment. **Action** - **Cllrs Armitage and Palethorpe** to follow up this suggestion.

4e) DCC Urban Grass Cutting Agreement 2021/2022

This needs to be decided by 28th February. **Action – Cllr Carnell and Parish Clerk** to check the current contractor’s 3rd Party Liability cover.

4f) AOB

Brief discussion on SWQL training course. We currently have 2 councillors who have attended and passed this course. Cllr Palethorpe suggested that we need another qualified person to increase our cover so a volunteer is required.

5) To note the date of the next meeting: **Tuesday 9th March 2021**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.35pm.